Carer Choices Fund

Support fund for carers to help reduce the impact of caring on their health, wellbeing and opportunities

Guidance notes

This grant programme is made possible thanks to funding from grants and charitable donations.

It means Caring Together can provide swift support to carers, helping to reduce the impact that caring has had on their health and wellbeing and opportunities. The scheme is designed to help to meet one or more of the following outcomes for carers/bereaved carers where other funding is not available to help:

- Carer is able to access/stay in education/employment/training
- Carer is supported to have a life after caring
- Carers' health and wellbeing has improved
- Carer is more able to cope
- Carer is less lonely/isolated
- Carer is able to have time away from caring
- Bereaved carer is able to access specialist support (e.g. counselling)

We have got a limited amount of money. Grants are only available while there is still money available.

Decisions on applications will be made within 3 working days of the application being received while funds are still available. Decisions will be based on what will make the most difference to the carer given the money available.

Key information
Carers from Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk can apply for small grants. We will also consider applications from schools/colleges wishing to put in an application on behalf of a group of young carers – this can be for a maximum of £300 in total. Applications for partial funding will be accepted, as long as it is clear how the remainder of the cost will be covered. **Please note:** • Applications cannot be considered for items already purchased. • An application for a bursary does not guarantee you will be successful as we expect demand to be higher than available funds. • All applications must have the support of a professional who knows about the carer's situation (such as a GP, social worker, teacher, project worker etc)

How to apply

- You will need to complete an application form and email it to hello@caringtogether.org
- Applications will need the support of a professional known to the family (e.g. teacher, social worker, young carers project worker).
- It will help if you can provide quotes or links where possible to show the proposed costs.
- Applications will be reviewed whilst funds still remain.

When will you hear back?

When you apply, we will reply to confirm receipt of your application and give an indication of when you will hear back. We hope to communicate decisions within 3 working days of the application being received

What happens if you are successful?

- If you are successful, we will contact you to confirm you accept the offer of the award (particularly in the case of partial awards).
- Payments will be made by BACS – this will be to the carer/their parent (for young carers), unless it makes more sense to pay directly to an organisation. Payments need to go through our accounts department.
- Once you have purchased what the grant was awarded for, you will need to provide a receipt. Failure to provide a receipt or satisfactory proof of purchase may result in Caring Together seeking to reclaim the money awarded. If your purchase costs less than the amount awarded, then you will need to repay the difference unless we agree it can be used for a specific additional purchase.
- For some of our funding we ask you to complete a short survey so we can evidence to the funders of the grant how this money helped you in your caring role. If this is the case we will send you the survey at the point of issuing the funding.
- We would also appreciate, although this is not mandatory, a short summary of how the grant has helped you and a photo of the young person with their purchase so we can feedback and thank the funders. This also helps us to secure future funding.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about this grant, or wish to check about the status of your application, please contact hello@caringtogether.org or ring 01480 499090